

# Childhood Asthma in Missouri

Asthma often runs in families that have a history of asthma and allergies. It is the most common chronic disease of childhood and number one reason why children miss school.

## Did You Know

**\$18.2 million**

in hospital charges were for children with asthma.<sup>3</sup>

**5,564 emergency**

department visits were for asthma among children

**11%** of children under the age of 18 were diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime.<sup>1</sup>



**39%** of asthma hospitalizations were for children.<sup>3</sup>

**43%** of children with asthma had an "asthma attack" in the past year.<sup>2</sup>



**39%** of children with asthma had to limit their activities due to asthma.<sup>2</sup>

**97,798** Missouri children currently have asthma<sup>1</sup>

1. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021. Retrieved May 16, 2023, from <http://www.health.mo.gov/data/brfss/data.php>

2. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Asthma Call-back Survey, 2018-2020. Retrieved May 16, 2023, from <http://www.health.mo.gov/data/brfss/data.php>

3. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA). Retrieved MONTH, DD, YYYY from <http://www.health.mo.gov/MICA>



# Childhood Asthma Q & A

During our 2021 annual phone survey, we spoke with 85 parents of children diagnosed with asthma. The following summarizes their responses.

## How old was your child when they were first diagnosed with asthma?

0 to 3 years	44.4%
4 to 10 years	55.6%

## How long ago has it been since you last spoke with your doctor about your child's asthma?

Within the past year	75.5%
1 to less than 3 years	13.4%
More than 3 years	11.1%

## How long ago has it been since your child last took asthma medication?

Less than 1 day	25.3%
1 to 6 days	13.0%
1 week to 3 months	12.5%
3 months or more	49.2%

## During the past two weeks, how many days was your child symptom free?

Everyday	78.9%
7 to 13 days	9.4%
1 to 6 days	10.5%
Zero days	1.2%

## During the past 30 days, how much have you limited your child's activities because of asthma?

Not at all	72.8%
A little	21.8%
A moderate amount	2.3%
A lot	3.1%

## During the past 12 months, has your child had an episode or asthma attack?

Yes	100.0%
No	0.0%

## During the past three months, how many asthma attacks has your child had?

None	66.5%
One	12.4%
More than one	21.1%

## During the past 12 months, have you had to visit the ER for your child's asthma?

Yes	24.6%
No	75.4%

## During the past 12 months, how many times did you visit the ER for your child's asthma?

Once	15%
More than once	10%
None	85%

## Has a health professional ever given you an asthma action plan for your child?

Yes	73%
No	27%

## Has a health professional ever advised you to change things in your home and/or at school to improve your child's asthma?

Yes	35.5%
No	64.5%

## Have you ever taken a course or class on how to manage your child's asthma?

Yes	29%
No	71%

Asthma is a common disease affecting the lungs. There is no cure for asthma, but it can be controlled. With treatment, a person with asthma can live an active life. If left untreated, asthma can severely impact a person's life.

Asthma affects the airways in the lungs. People with asthma have airways that are extra sensitive to different things in the environment such as cigarette smoke, dust mites and mold. When people with asthma breathe in these things, their airways become inflamed and swollen. Air can't get through the airways and it is harder to breathe.

Asthma is a chronic disease. It is a lifelong condition that can cause permanent damage if it is not treated properly. Asthma is not contagious, but it often runs in families that have a history of asthma and allergies. Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood and the number one reason why children miss school.



**Data Source:** Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021. Retrieved July 28, 2023, from <http://www.health.mo.gov/data/brfss/data>

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